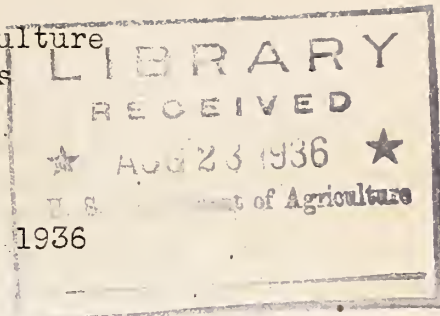


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
C-152F
United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington, D. C.



FS
A-448

August 13, 1936

FOREIGN NEWS ON FRUIT

European Apple and Pear Prospects

Prospects for European apple and pear crops which earlier in the season were favorable have declined substantially during recent weeks according to a report dated July 30, 1936 by Fred A. Motz, Agricultural Commissioner, London, England. Adverse weather conditions which prevailed during or immediately after the blossoming period have resulted in a very heavy drop in a number of important fruit-producing districts. Moreover, the cool weather and the heavy rain and high winds which have prevailed in recent weeks, together with a spread of insect and disease pests, have resulted in considerable damage to fruit crops.

United Kingdom: Apple and pear prospects in the United Kingdom show very little change from those reported a month ago. Frost damage was negligible and while hail, high winds, and rain have caused some loss, the yield as a whole has not been materially affected. The June drop is over and according to all reports, apples have set satisfactorily. There is every indication at present that there will be a good supply of apples, although the yield is not expected to be as heavy as in 1934. Worcesters seem to be heavy in most districts. Bramleys also show a good crop with the exception of some low-lying orchards which were damaged by early spring frosts. On the whole Cox's promise a fairly good crop, while most other varieties are showing up satisfactorily.

There has been very little sunshine during the past month and it has been cool and showery, although total precipitation has not been above normal. There is considerable evidence of scab in many orchards, although they are said to have been well sprayed. Should present weather conditions continue, the keeping quality of the crop may be adversely affected.

Prospects for pears are better than last year in most districts.

Western Europe

Netherlands: Fruit crop prospects have shown a substantial decline during the past month. On July 15, a severe storm occurred which brought a large portion of fruit to the ground. In addition, fruit trees suffered some damage from breakage and in some instances shallow rooted trees were uprooted. It now appears that fruit crops in general will be very short. Apple crops especially have declined to a point where not more than 25 per cent of the normal crop is expected.

Belgium: Just as in the case of the Netherlands, crop conditions in

the fruit areas of Belgium have undergone a considerable change during the past four weeks. Crops which appeared very promising earlier in the season are now reported to have been reduced considerably owing to adverse weather conditions. In most districts the apple harvest is expected to be only medium to fair, while it is now believed that the pear crop will be very small.

France: Conditions in the fruit-producing areas vary considerably according to districts. Prospects in the northwestern part of the country are the most favorable, while in the south central section, the apple crops have been greatly reduced. Prospects for the Auvergne district, which seemed very good a few weeks ago, have now declined to about 10 percent of the normal crop. In the Garonne Valley, apple prospects are somewhat better, although the crop is not expected to exceed more than 25 to 30 percent of normal. The apple crop in most of southern France appears to be very light.

Prospects for pears are also not very encouraging. The important Williams crop throughout the Loire Valley and especially around Angers, is very light.

Switzerland: Crop prospects in Switzerland have also declined as unfavorable weather has caused considerable damage, not only to the set of fruit, but also to the quality of the remaining crop. The June drop in all districts has been unusually heavy and the apple crop is now estimated at about 37 percent of normal as compared with 67 percent last year. Pears are given as 44 percent of normal as against 59 percent in 1935.

Central Europe

Germany: In general, fruit crops are expected to be much lighter than was at first anticipated. Important apple-producing districts report prospects somewhat less favorable than a year ago. While it is difficult to weigh the position accurately because of the irregularity of conditions in the various districts, the apple crop as a whole appears to be lighter than last year. While pear trees seem to be in better shape than apples, they too show considerable variation and make it difficult to estimate.

Austria: Fruit crop prospects have also declined during the past 4 to 6 weeks. What was at first believed to be an excellent fruit crop has since declined to a medium or perhaps below average one. Reports generally indicate considerable insect injury as well as scab which has been difficult to control because of continued rainy weather. While some fruits may be available for export, the quantity is not expected to be large, possibly not exceeding 800 to 1,000 cars.

Hungary: An average crop of apples and pears is anticipated. This year, apple production is estimated at about 30,000 short tons as against an estimated production of 24,000 short tons last year. Exports are not expected to exceed 5,000 short tons, a large portion of which will probably go to Germany. Pear production is expected to show a considerable increase over last year and is placed at 100,000 short tons as compared to 60,000 short tons produced last year.

Italy: Conditions show little change other than reported a month ago. The apple crop is expected to be considerably larger than the short crop produced last year. Quality is said to be good and most varieties average from a fair to good crop. Canada Reinettes, a popular variety in Europe, is said to be about an average crop in the Bolzano district. Trento, which is famous for its White Winter Calville, expects to harvest a fair crop.

Pears, which are mostly of the Williams variety, are a good crop in the Bolzano, Llano, and Trento districts. Excellent quality is reported and English receivers are looking forward to this deal with interest. It would seem that fruit conditions in Italy have been more favorable than in most European countries.

Yugoslavia: The apple crop is now estimated at about 200,000 short tons as against 170,000 short tons produced last year. The crop seems to be considerably earlier than last year, early apples having been available since the first of July. While the exportable surplus is expected to exceed that of last year, it will not be much higher than the 5-year average. Germany is expected to be the principal buyer of Yugoslavian apples during this season. The pear crop is estimated to be considerably heavier than last year as growing conditions have been favorable and the crop is said to be developing normally.

Scandinavian Countries

Denmark - Conditions in Denmark are somewhat similar to those prevailing in the British Isles. Weather conditions for the most part have been favorable and good fruit yields are anticipated. The apple crop is expected to be well above average and it is believed that in the event of an export movement Germany would probably be the most important receiver as a result of the existing clearing arrangement between the two countries. Although prospects for pears are not as favorable as in the case of apples, the pear crop is said to be above average.

Norway: Fruit prospects in Norway seem to be more or less irregular, although on the whole the crop is expected to be considerably below average. Adverse weather conditions, coupled with the presence of insect and disease pests, have reduced the crop substantially. Indications are that the apple and pear crops along the west coast of Norway will be about 35 percent of last year. However, it is not believed that Norway will be interested in purchasing apples and pears before the beginning of the new year.

Sweden: A month ago it was believed that the apple crop would be above average, but weather conditions during the past six weeks have been unfavorable and a below-average crop is now anticipated. The drop has been heavy owing to heat and drought experienced early in July. In the southern apple districts, prospects are somewhat more favorable than last year,

whereas in central and northern Sweden prospects are less favorable, especially in the case of later varieties. The pear crop is now estimated at about 50 to 60 percent of normal.

1936-37 Export Outlook for American Apples

The export trade in 1936-37 will be governed more than usual by the behavior of the domestic market. With a short crop of apples in prospect in the United States, which may result in better prices on the domestic market, it is not believed that a large export movement would seem warranted. However, although exports of American apples will, no doubt, be smaller than last year, a fair volume of business is anticipated.

Supplies of English apples should be fairly heavy during the early part of the season, but as the season advances the position should become normal. It is not believed that competition from Canadian apples will be as heavy as it was last year and on the whole the outlook for the United Kingdom as a market would appear fairly favorable.

The situation in the continental European markets appears less encouraging. Despite the apparent shortage of home-grown apples, there will be many difficulties to surmount, such as trade barriers and other restrictions.

The fruit trade in the Netherlands and Belgium has become quite difficult as a result of various restrictions imposed by neighboring countries. In the case of France, it is believed that as a result of the satisfactory agreement reached between the United States and that country, imports of American apples will be normal, although importers are showing anxiety over the exchange situation.

Germany is turning elsewhere for her source of apple supplies as clearing arrangements and trade agreements between Germany and various European countries having a fruit surplus are working out satisfactorily.

The outlook for marketing American apples in the Mediterranean countries is not very promising.